Balmer Lawrie

6042. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether 13 joint venture units of Balmer Lawrie are running under heavy loss due to mis-management;

(b) whether the Finance Director alongwith two General Managers, resigned on account of such anomalies which may draw punishment;

(c) whether the Government propose to conduct any enquiry against this huge finance losses and take appropriate action against them were responsible; and

(d) if not, why ?

THE MINISTR OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir. Only three Joint Ventures, Cochin Refineries-Balmer Lawrie Ltd., Balmer Lawrie-Van Leer Ltd., Balmer Lawrie-Freight Containers Madras are running on losses. All the Joint Ventures are Board managed companies with professional fulltime Directors on their Boards and the equity holding of Balmer Lawrie in these Joint Ventures varies between 25% to 50%.

(b) The Director (Finance) has resigned for better career prospects and no General Manager has resigned recently. The question of punishment does not arise, as these Joint Ventures are managed by independent Board.

(c) and (d) Does not arise in view of (a) and (b) above.

Loan to Kerala by Asian Development Bank

6043. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated for the development of projects and canals in Kerala with the help of Asian Development Bank;

(b) the details of these projects;

(c) whether some works have been undertaken with the help of Asian Development Bank during 1996-97 in Kerala;

(d) if so, the amount spent thereon; and

(e) the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR): (a) to (e) Government of Kerala has not been implementing any Asian Development Bank assisted Projects/canals.

However, Kerala is one of the beneficiary States under ADB loan for the "Second Road Project" of US$ 250.00 million. The loan Agreement provides US$ 23.48 million for the work of four-laning of 47 km. of Alwaye-Vytilla and Aroor-Sherthalai and strengthening of Vytilla-Aroor Section of NH 47 in Kerala. The work under this sub-project commenced in March 1994 and its target date of completion is March 1999. The expenditure incurred under this sub-project during 1996-97 was Rs. 32.47 crores out of the total expenditure of Rs. 67.12 crores incurred so far.

Private Sector in Housing Schemes

6044. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to allow participation of private sector in housing schemes for providing houses to all in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) and (b) The National Housing Policy envisages encouragement to private developers and the organised sector to invest in various forms of housing and land development by access to finance speedier approval of schemes and other forms of support, removal of constraints to assembling and develpment of land. The policy also lays down that the private developers will devote a significant portion of the investment in housing for lower and middle income groups at affordable prices and conform to non-exploitative practices.

The extent to which and the manner in which private sector is to be involved in the housing development programmes is to be decided by the respective State Governments, in this case by the Government of Bihar, as Housing is the State subject.

Coaching for All India Services

6045. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons belonging to the States of Arunachal, Manipur and Meghalaya have been recruited as IAS, IFS and IPS during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the procedure adopted to categorise the successful entrants into these services as Scheduled Tribe, Scheduled Caste or General;

(c) whether the States of Arunachal, Manipur and Meghalaya have set up coaching institutions to prepare the candidates for entry into the All India Services; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN): (a) A statement indicating the requisite information is attached.

(b) The candidates are categorised as Scheduled

Castes/Scheduled Tribes on the basis of the lists of SCs/STs notified under the Constitution (SC) Order, 1950 and Constitution (ST) Order, 1950 and other relevant orders and certified as such by the competent authority. Candidates belonging to communities which are notified as other backward classes by the Ministry of Welfare Resolution are treated as Other Backward Classes candidates. Those candidates who do not fall under any of the categories mentioned above are treated as General candidates.

(c) and (d) The requisite information is not Centrally monitored.

Statement

The Number of persons belonging to the States of Arunachal, Manipur and Meghalaya recruited as IAS, IFS and IPS during the last three years

	(Direct Recruits)			(Promotee Officers)		
Yrs	1994	1995	1996	1994	1995	1996
Arunachal Pradesh						
IAS	0	0	0	2	3	-
IFS	0	0	0	0	0	0
IPS	0	0	0	0	0	1
Meghalaya:						
IAS	0	0	1	1	1	3
IFS	0	0	0	0	0	0
IPS	1	0	0	2	0	2
Manipur						
IAS	0	1	0	4	1	2
IFS	2	1	2	1	0	0
IPS	1	0	1	0	1	1

Hostages in Kashmir

6046. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT:

SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some concrete efforts have been made by the Government regarding the release of 19 month old captivity of four Western Hostages in Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) and (b) Government has been reviewing and monitoring the situation pertaining to the abduction and hostage taking of 4 foreign tourists in Jammu & Kashmir on a continuous basis, and all possible efforts are being made to locate their whereabouts. The State Government has constituted a Special Investigation Team for giving impetus to the investigation and inquiries in the case, as also to try and get information regarding their status and whereabouts. The State Government has also announced a scheme of rewards to persons giving specific information in this regard, and wide publicity has been given to this through press and media. A nodal officer has also been designated at the Central level to collect and review on a continuing basis, any information having relevance to the situation of the hostages issue that may be received from any source, and regular interaction and follow up is also being maintained with the State Government in the matter.

The Government has also maintained close and continuous interaction with representatives of the countries whose nationals have been taken hostage, by way of sharing of information and exchange of ideas aimed at achieving the common objective of tracing and locating the hostages at the earliest. Action on all these fronts continues to be intensively pursued.

Light Rail Transit System in Hyderabad

6047. SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the stage at which the Light Rail Transit System of Hyderabad stands at present;

(b) the amount released so far for the purpose; and

(c) the steps taken by the Union and State Government so far for its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU): (a) to (c) For implementing Light Rail Transit System in Hyderabad,